

BULLETIN

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The Maritime Library Association

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The President's Letter

Libraries in Canada are reaching a new stage of development. With the Bulletin of the Canadian Library Council which appeared in October of this year we have not only an attractive and streamlined publication, but a tangible evidence that there has been a growing feeling in Canada that libraries for the whole country, rural and urban, are one of our primary educational needs. The establishment of the Canadian Library Council, the appearance of its publications, and its excellent Brief presented to the Committee for Reconstruction and Re-establishment, are signs of the coming of age of libraries in this country. Of course as bigoted Maritimers we are pleased to see that Miss Elizabeth H. Morton, the full-time secretary of the Council, is one of us, as far as ancestry and education, if not birth, go. And she was for a while Secretary to the New Brunswick Library Commission.

By now everyone will have seen the Wilson Library Bulletin for November -- the Canadian Library Number. It does give that "Maple Leaf Forever" feeling, but we are more sad than glad when we read about the lack of libraries in Eastern Canada. Perhaps if we started to import books we would stop exporting brains.

British Columbia has pioneered again in its province in the certification of librarians. Their plan is well worth studying.

Citizens' Forum groups are meeting all over Canada to listen and talk over our problems on Tuesday evenings at 9:30. In libraries today we think in terms of adult education. Here is a chance to educate ourselves and urge our borrowers and friends to do the same. We must do all we can to supply stimulating books and pamphlets to groups. Some of our libraries are ideal places for groups to meet. The importance of sending in reports cannot be overemphasized. The National Secretary says, "They tie the thought of the groups together." Let's be up and doing about our present and future and not let the new world we're going to get slide in by default through our inertia. Citizens' Forum discussions should be the prelude to citizens' action.

Tom Paine wrote in 1774 that "these were times that tried men's souls." He might have been writing for us. It is hard to say "Happy New Year when there is so much desolation in the world. But let's try to make it as happy as possible, and hope that 1945 will bring us peace again.

Marion Gilroy

Correction

The Editor apologizes for omitting to give credit to the authors of two articles in the September Bulletin. Miss Irene Hillier, the librarian, wrote the account of the Home Service Library, New Waterford; and the description of St. Francis Xavier University Library was by Sister Regina Clare, C.N.D.

REFERENCE CORNER

Can any reader supply information on the following questions for which answers could not be found?

1. A recipe is wanted for preserving autumn leaves other than by waxing.
2. Information on Rex Woods, a modern sculptor, presumably Canadian?

If you can help with these questions or have any unsolved ones of your own please write to the Editor.

Plans for Extension of Library service in the Maritimes

A resolution of the Nova Scotia Regional Libraries Commission urging the establishment of a regional library in Cape Breton has been sent to all town and city councils in Cape Breton asking for their support. According to the plan, the library would be built by the municipalities and then financed by them on a 50-50 basis with the provincial government. The Commission is concentrating on Cape Breton now, as people there have shown they are interested and have laid some of the ground work; it hopes eventually to establish 8 to 10 regional libraries in the province.

Saint John Friends of the Library at their annual meeting passed a resolution urging upon the city authorities the need for increased support of the Free Public Library and asking the postwar reconstruction committee to give those claims a leading place in its program. The resolution pointed out that the resources of Saint John's excellent public library are curtailed by insufficient grants and that there is need of extending library facilities to West Saint John and to the eastern part of the city.

The commissioners of the Free Public Library later endorsed the resolution.

The Moncton City Council has considered and approved a proposal that a new public library at a cost of \$100,000 be erected as a memorial to citizens of Moncton serving in this war and the First Great War. The Council will ask the New Brunswick legislature to enable the City of Moncton to issue bonds for the construction of a library building. It is planned to raise by public subscription an amount equal to that contributed by the City corporation. They will request legislation also to authorize an annual assessment by the Council for the maintenance and operation of a public library.

Book Week Notes

Mount St. Vincent, Halifax

A highly original display of books was arranged in the students' library at Mount St. Vincent. The theme was man's twin needs, food for the body and food for the mind. Colored posters illustrated principles of physical nutrition and books to supply parallel needs of the mind were exhibited.

In the Lending Library there was shown a delightful collection of books for young people including books that have been awarded the Caldecott medal and the Newbery medal.

Saint John

Besides a display of the latest children's books, there were two exhibits in the children's room showing how children can construct replicas of things they read about. On one table was an Indian village scene - teepees and Indians on a grassy field beside a lake. The second exhibit showed circus animals and two circus wagons cleverly contrived from lightweight cardboard.

Charlottetown

A Story Hour was held on Saturday morning of Book Week, and films - "Aladdin and the lamp" and "Beanstalk Jack" - were shown to about fifty children.

Notes and Personals

The Saint John branch of the Maritime Library Association held its October meeting at the New Brunswick museum with Miss Margaret Evans as hostess. The members and guests were shown the J. Clarence Webster gallery, the marine exhibits, the natural history gallery, the museum archives, the Ganong room and the art department.

At the annual meeting in November Miss E.M.A. Vaughan was re-elected President of the branch and Miss Marguerite Berton was elected secretary. Miss Frances Machum gave an interesting talk on library work in hospitals.

Miss Estelle M.A. Vaughan writes from Saint John;

"Miss Hope Jarvis left our library in September to take a much needed rest in Toronto and Montreal. Miss Frances Machum formerly of the Toronto Public Library is replacing her temporarily while we look for a permanent assistant."

Miss Dorothy McKay of Halifax reports:

*Miss Charlotte Allan resigned her position at King's College Library at the end of June to take a position in the Library of the Department of External Affairs at Ottawa.

Mrs. Amy Gill of Halifax has joined the staff of King's College Library.

The first meeting of the Halifax Library Club this season was held on November 30 when the officers for the coming year were elected. They are

President, Miss Evelyn Campbell
Vice-President, Mrs. Margaret Cornell
Secy-Treasurer, Dorothy MacKay.

Our real activities for the season will begin after the New Year. During the past year we were very glad to have a number of Wren librarians stationed in Halifax at our meetings and we expect we will have them with us again."

Introducing Mr. M.P. Boone, Librarian, Acadia University

Mr. Boone had a brilliant scholastic career at Fredericton High School, the University of New Brunswick, and the University of Toronto, where he obtained his M.A. in Classics. After a few years of high school teaching, he went back to receive the Bachelor of Library Science degree at the Library School, Toronto. He since held positions as lecturer at the Library School in Toronto, Assistant Librarian of the Ontario College of Education, chief cataloguer of the University of Saskatchewan Library.

The Athenaeum speaks of his keen interest in books - and in other aspects of college life - of his friendly and helpful manner, and says: "It is with keen anticipation that Acadia looks forward to Mr. Boone's sojourn here." (Adapted from the Acadia Athenaeum)

The Headquarters of the Prince Edward Island Libraries has been moved from one section of Prince of Wales College basement to another, as part of an arrangement to provide space for classrooms for technical training of discharged service men and women. The process of moving took about six weeks; it involved taking down and putting up again two hundred feet of steel stacks and moving almost eight tons of books (trying to keep them in order meanwhile). The Library is now in operation in Headquarters II.

Bookshelves in Post-war Homes

The National Book Council is urging the adoption of the suggestion made by the Archbishop of Canterbury that all nationally planned houses should include built-in bookshelves. One of the British Government's "stop-gap" homes set up near the Tate Gallery, London, last summer, provided an example of how bookshelves might be fitted in. A picture of them, together with readers' ideas for built-in bookshelves, is published in the National Book Council News Sheet.
